

Wayne J. Mastalski
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July 5, 1994

Dr. Cyril Wecht
c/o The Dutton Division
Penguin Books
375 Hudson Street
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Mr. Wecht:

I have read your book, "Cause of Death", and was most interested in your comments on the JFK assassination. However, my reading of your book prompted the following medical questions:

1. In your book, you make reference to two bullets that penetrated only a short distance (one or two inches) into Kennedy's body. These wounds were, of course, the back wound and the neck wound. What might cause such wounds? Specifically, I am interested in the type of bullets and weapons that would have such shallow penetration at such short distances.

2. In his book, "Case Closed", Gerald Posner stated Kennedy had a neurological reflex known as the Thorburn position. A description of Kennedy's reaction was not explained in your book. Therefore, was this reflex possible and if so, what might have caused it to occur?

3. There are at least two descriptions of the back wound. Admiral Burkley's puts it about the level of the third thoracic vertebra while the aforementioned "Case Closed" puts it at the sixth cervical vertebra. Which is consistent with your examination of Kennedy's clothes described on page 35 of your book (five and three-quarter inches down from the base of the neck)?

A SASE is enclosed for your answers. If a telephone conversation is more convenient, my work phone is (708) 782-2390 and my home phone is (708) 678-3516. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wayne J. Mastalski